

Brigance, W. W. Miacham, D. C. Zuber, W. C. Bookman, J. H. Wilson, Sam Blake and Robt. H. Gardin.

Leon county—H. M. Cook, C. M. Thomasson, H. P. Morrow, W. R. Ellis, A. D. Boggs, J. D. Stell, P. L. Anders, F. B. Looney, B. D. Dashiell, S. G. Ward, Horatio Durst and A. G. Weaver.

Madison county—J. F. Randolph, J. L. Bolling, John Vernon, V. A. Hendrix and John Sterett.

Rusk county—D. M. Deason, J. P. Ross, W. P. Devereux, Dallas Forman, G. H. Gould, L. D. Stephens, M. W. Pearson, T. H. Still, J. G. Garrison, J. B. Hollingsworth, J. T. Madox, T. A. Whetstone, H. Carter, G. R. Lacy and J. H. Wood.

Panola county—T. A. Lawrence, J. W. Cariker, T. G. Allison, C. A. Cadenhead and W. M. Donaldson.

San Augustine county—A. C. Holmes, M. W. Hungerford and N. M. Neely.

Nacogdoches county—Jas. H. Thomas, B. W. Pye, T. R. Jennings, J. V. Birdwell, O. P. Feares, A. B. Patton, L. T. Barrett, F. B. Brewer, T. J. Swift, and Jno. P. Davidson.

Shelby county—T. C. Davis, Y. W. Rodgers, J. M. Hairgrove, Geo. Haden, W. Beck, W. D. Ellington, W. R. Field, Dan Brittain and James P. Payne.

Taylor county—Frank M. Kelsey, T. J. Finnie, J. S. Porter, P. G. Peters, Geo. W. Jalonick, D. B. Corley, Wesley Smith, S. P. Hardwicke, M. C. Lambeth, John Bowyer.

Senator Chesley entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which Senate joint resolutions Nos. 4, 10, 11 and 13, to amend section 3, article 7, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, was passed to third reading.

On motion of Senator Harris, Senator Peacock was excused until Thursday, on account of important business, and Senator Perry indefinitely, on account of sickness.

On Motion of Senator Pope, the Senate adjourned until 10 o'clock a. m. to-morrow.

FIFTY-SIXTH DAY.

SENATE CHAMBER,
AUSTIN, TEXAS, March 20, 1883. }

Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

President pro tem. in the chair.

Roll called. Quorum present.

Prayer by the Chaplain.

On motion of Senator Shannon, the reading of the journal of yesterday was dispensed with, and the same adopted.

Senator Traylor, chairman of the Committee on Claims and Accounts, submitted the following report:

COMMITTEE ROOM,
AUSTIN, March 20, 1883.

Hon. A. W. Houston, President pro tem. of the Senate:

Your Committee on Claims and Accounts, to whom was referred the memorial of Thomas Goggan & Bro., asking for an appropriation of \$231, with interest thereon from April 8, 1871, a balance claimed to be due on a piano for the Executive mansion, have carefully examined the same, and instruct me to report the same back with the recommendation that the principal of \$231, without interest thereon, be allowed said memorialists, and that said sum be placed upon the deficiency bill.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

TRAYLOR, Chairman.

Senator Fowler introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That all of the committee clerks of the Senate be and are hereby discharged, and that the President of the Senate be and is hereby authorized to appoint, when necessary, one assistant for the Engrossing Clerk, one assistant for the Enrolling Clerk, and one general clerk, who shall perform such other duties as may be required of them by the President of the Senate.

Adopted.

A message was received from the House, informing the Senate of the passage by that body of the following bills:

Substitute for Senate bill No. 221, "An act to provide for the organization of a board to direct, supervise and control the work of obtaining and presenting statements, accounts, and abstracts, showing the amount and character of the claims of the State of Texas against the government of the United States, for moneys expended by said State

in protecting her frontiers; to prepare vouchers, and to obtain and present necessary proof in support of said claims, as required by an act of Congress, entitled 'an act to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to examine and report to Congress the amount of all claims of the States of Texas, Colorado, Oregon, Nebraska, California, Kansas and Nevada, and the Territories of Washington and Idaho, for moneys expended and indebtedness assumed by said States and Territories in repelling invasions and suppressing Indian hostilities, and for other purposes' approved _____, 1882."

House bill No. 59, "An act to amend sections 1, 2 and 9 of an act entitled 'an act to amend an act entitled an act creating the office of public weigher, and regulating the appointment, and defining the duties and liabilities thereof.'"

House bill No. 512, "An act defining the boundaries of the corporation of the city of Gonzales for municipal purposes."

Also, substitute for House bills Nos. 28 and 463, "To restore to and confer upon the county courts of Burnet and Comanche counties the civil and criminal jurisdiction heretofore belonging to said courts under the Constitution and laws of this State, to conform the jurisdiction of the district court to such change, and to repeal all laws in conflict with the provisions of this act."

Senator Traylor introduced a bill to be entitled "An act providing for adjusting and settling outstanding land certificates."

Referred to Committee on Public Lands.

Senator Martin, chairman of Committee on Engrossed Bills, submitted the following report:

COMMITTEE ROOM,
AUSTIN, March 20, 1883.

Hon. Marion Martin, President of the Senate:

Your Committee on Engrossed Bills have carefully examined and compared Senate bill No. 150, being "An act to amend article 1173, of chapter 4, title 28, of the Revised Statutes."

Also, Senate bill No. 15, being "An act establishing a reformatory farm for the confinement, reform and utilization of convicts under the age of eighteen years."

Also, Senate joint resolution No. 45, "Instructing the Attorney General of the State of Texas to institute suit against the Houston and Texas Central Railroad Company for amount claimed to be due by them, as successors of the Washington County Railroad, to the public free school fund."

And find the same correctly engrossed.

MARTIN, Chairman.

Senator Gibbs introduced a resolution authorizing the Secretary of State to furnish Supreme Court reports to certain officials, with the request that it be acted on this morning.

Senator Harris made a point of order that to carry out the purposes of the resolution would be making an appropriation, and would have to take the course of a bill.

The chair sustained the point of order, and,

At the request of Senator Gibbs, the resolution was referred to the Committee on State Affairs.

Senator Pfeuffer moved to suspend the regular order of business and take up Senate bill No. 200, a bill to be entitled "An act making appropriations for deficiencies in the appropriations heretofore made for payment of expenses in support of the government from March 1, 1882, to February 28, 1883, being for payment of claims registered in the Comptroller's office, in accordance with law, and for outstanding claims not registered."

Senator Pfeuffer withdrew his motion, that Senator Fleming might call up substitute for Senate joint resolutions Nos. 12, 19, 21 and 31, joint resolution "Amending sections 4 and 6, article 7, of the Constitution of the State of Texas."

Adopted, and resolution taken up and read second time. Senator Gibbs offered the following amendment: Amend in line 8, section 6, by adding after "residing on said lands" these words, "at time the lands were set aside as the property of the county."

Lost.

Senator Davis offered the following amendment:

Amend by striking out that portion of the resolution in reference to the actual settlers.

Lost.

Senator Davis offered the following amendment:

Amend by striking out all that makes the State or county responsible for the interest.

Lost, and resolution passed to its third reading.

Senator Fleming moved that all resolutions on third reading be made special order for to-morrow morning, immediately after roll call.

Adopted.

Senator Pfeuffer renewed his motion to take up Senate bill No. 200, the deficiency appropriation bill.

Motion lost.

Senator Jones moved to suspend the regular order of business and take up Senate joint resolution No. 17, amending article 5 of the Constitution of the State of Texas.

Adopted, and

Resolution taken up and read second time.

Senator Jones moved to consider the resolution by sections.

Adopted.

Senator Davis offered the following amendment to section 2:

Strike out "eight" and insert "six."

Lost.

Senator Terrell offered the following amendment to section 5:

"But the present Chief Justice shall remain Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for the period for which he was elected."

Adopted.

Senator Martin offered the following amendment to section 6: Amend by striking out section 6.

Senator Traylor offered the following amendment to the section:

Strike out "\$5000" and insert "\$3600."

The President ruled that the motion to amend takes precedence of the motion to strike out.

Senator Cooper offered the following substitute for amendment of Senator Traylor:

Amend by striking out "not less than five thousand dollars" and insert in lieu thereof as follows: "Of such amount as may be prescribed by law, which salary shall not be increased or diminished during their term of office; and until otherwise provided by law, the justices of the Supreme Court shall receive an annual salary of three thousand five hundred and fifty dollars."

The President signed House bill No. 279, "An act granting E. S. Crosby the right to construct and maintain a boom across the Brazos river, in McLennan county, for the stoppage of floating material."

Senator Cooper's substitute was adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—19.

Buchanan,
Chesley,
Cooper,
Davis,
Farrar,
Fleming,
Fowler,

Getzendaner,
Gibbs,
Gooch,
Houston,
Martin,
Matlock,

Patton,
Pfeuffer,
Pope,
Randolph,
Shannon,
Terrell.

NAYS—7.

Evans,
Harris,

Jones,
Kleberg,

Stratton,
Traylor.

Johnston of Shelby.

Senator Martin's amendment was withdrawn.

Senator Fowler moved to amend the substitute just adopted by adding "not to exceed \$5000."

Lost, and

Substitute adopted as part of the section.

Senator Evans offered the following amendment to section 9:

Amend by striking out all after the word "government," where it first occurs in said section.

Adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—17.

Davis,
Evans,
Farrar,
Fleming,
Fowler,
Gibbs,

Harris,
Houston,
Jones,
Kleberg,
Patton,
Pfeuffer,

Randolph,
Shannon,
Stratton,
Terrell,
Traylor.

NAYS—8.

Buchanan,
Chesley,
Cooper,

Getzendaner,
Gooch,
Johnston of Shelby,

Martin,
Matlock.

Senator Terrell presented the following as his explanation of his position and vote on the adoption of section 9 of the joint resolution with regard to locating the Supreme Court:

MR. PRESIDENT:—I represent the district in which this vote proposes to make the Supreme Court permanent. In deference to that fact I ask to be excused from voting, and prefer that if the Supreme Court be concentrated here it shall be done by those who do not feel so deeply interested in it as do those I represent. Besides, Texas has been liberal of late years in providing for her capital in public works, and the capital district Senator ought to be excused from voting on a question which has become, to some extent, sectional.

Senator Fleming and Senator Davis objected to excusing Senator Terrell from voting.

SENATOR TERRELL:—Mr. President, I will vote, and vote my convictions, but I say here that I have kept aloof from this question, and no Senator here ever heard me express any sentiment on this question to influence any Senator's vote. I vote "aye."

Senator Davis offered the following amendment to section 11:

Amend by striking out all after the word "court" in fourth line.

Adopted, and section, as amended, adopted.

Senator Davis offered to amend by adding at the end of the section, "except the Court of Appeals."

Senator Patton offered the following substitute for the amendment of Senator Davis:

Add at the end of the section "within its appellate jurisdiction."

Lost.

Senator Davis' amendment was lost.

Senator Farrar offered the following amendment to section 14:

Strike out the words "for each place at which it may sit," in lines 16 and 17 of page 3.

Senator Evans offered the following substitute:

SEC. 14. The Supreme Court shall appoint a clerk, who shall hold his office for four years, subject to removal by the court, and who shall give such bond as may be prescribed by law.

Adopted as a substitute and as an amendment to the bill.

Senator Traylor offered the following amendment to section 15 of the bill:

Add at the end of the section "for six years from the beginning of their term of office."

Lost.

Senator Martin offered the following amendment to section 16:

Strike out the word "places" and insert place."

Senator Chesley offered the following substitute for the pending amendment:

Strike out "times and places" and insert "time and place."

Adopted, and also as an amendment to the bill.

Senator Davis offered the following amendment to section 17:

Strike out "and on motions in arrest of judgment," in lines 11 and 12.

Senator Patton offered the following as a substitute for amendment:

Strike out all of section after the word "courts," in line 8.

Lost by the following vote:

YEAS—6.		
Davis,	Houston,	Stratton.
Gooch,	Patton,	Traylor.

NAYS—16.		
Buchanan,	Getzendaner,	Kleberg,
Chesley,	Gibbs,	Martin,
Evans,	Harris,	Matlock,
Farrar,	Johnston of Shelby,	Pfeuffer,
Fleming,	Jones,	Terrell.
Fowler,		

Senator Harris offered the following as amendment for pending amendment:

Strike out "in arrest of judgment" and insert "made in arrest of judgment for defects in indictments and informations."

Adopted, and also adopted as an amendment to the section.

Senator Houston offered the following:

Strike out all after the word "whatsoever," in line 9, and to the word "provided," in line 12.

Lost by the following vote:

YEAS—9.		
Davis,	Gooch,	Patton,
Evans,	Houston,	Shannon,
Fleming,	Matlock,	Stratton.

NAYS—13.		
Buchanan,	Gibbs,	Kleberg,
Chesley,	Harris,	Martin,
Farrar,	Johnston of Shelby,	Pfeuffer,
Fowler,	Jones,	Terrell.
Getzendaner,		

Senator Jones offered the following amendment:

Add after "courts," in line 8, section 17, "and by criminal district courts."

Adopted.

Senator Cooper offered the following amendment:

Amend by striking out all after "court," in line 8, and insert in lieu thereof as follows: "but in criminal cases with such exceptions and under such regulations as may be prescribed by law."

Adopted.

Section, as amended, adopted.

On motion of Senator Matlock, the Senate adjourned until 3 o'clock p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

President pro tem. in the chair.

Roll called. Quorum present.

Senator Patton, chairman of Committee on State Affairs, submitted the following reports:

COMMITTEE ROOM,
AUSTIN, March 20, 1883.

Hon. A. W. Houston, President pro tem. of the Senate:

Your Committee on State Affairs, to whom was referred House bill No. 489, entitled "An act to prevent the adulteration of food, wines, beers, fermented or distilled liquors and drugs," have carefully examined the same, and recommend that it be amended by substituting the word "required" for the word "found," in section 6, and that so amended, it do pass.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

PATTON, Chairman.

Bill read first time.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
AUSTIN, March 20, 1883.

Hon. A. W. Houston, President pro tem. of the Senate:

Your Committee on State Affairs, to whom was referred Senate bill No. 337, entitled "An act to amend title 48, chapter 3, article 2763, of the Revised Civil Statutes, and fixing the bond of the State Treasurer at five hundred thousand dollars," have carefully examined the same, and recommend that the bill be amended by substituting for "five hundred thousand," where it occurs in the bill and caption of the same, "two hundred and fifty thousand," and that so amended, it do pass.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

PATTON, Chairman.

Bill read first time.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
AUSTIN, March 20, 1883.

Hon. A. W. Houston, President pro tem. of the Senate:

Your Committee on State Affairs, to whom was referred Senate joint resolution entitled "A joint resolution fixing the day of adjournment of the Eighteenth Legislature," have carefully examined the same, and instruct me to report the same back with the recommendation that it do not pass, for the reason that measures of the greatest general importance, such as amendments to the Constitution, bills regulating the disposal of public lands, appropriations, etc., are still pending in the different stages of passage, and your committee are unwilling to recommend an adjournment until these measures are disposed of.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

PATTON, Chairman.

Resolution read first time.

Senator Chesley moved to reconsider the vote by which Senator Cooper's amendment was adopted to section 17 of the joint resolution, pending on adjournment.

Adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—18.		
Chesley,	Fowler,	Kleberg,
Collins,	Getzendaner,	Martin,
Cooper,	Gibbs,	Matlock,
Davis,	Gooch,	Pfeuffer,
Farrar,	Harris,	Terrell,
Fleming,	Jones,	Traylor.

NAYS—5.		
Evans,	Patton,	Shannon.
Houston,	Pope,	

Senator Davis offered the following as a substitute for the pending amendment of Senator Cooper:

Strike out all after "courts" in line 8, to the word "provided," and insert "in behalf of the defendant in all cases, and in behalf of the State in such cases as may be prescribed by law."

Accepted, and as an amendment to the bill lost by the following vote:

YEAS—10.		
Cooper,	Gooch,	Patton,
Davis,	Houston,	Shannon,
Evans,	Matlock,	Traylor.
Gibbs,		

NAYS—12.		
Chesley,	Getzendaner,	Martin,
Farrar,	Harris,	Pfeuffer,
Fleming,	Jones,	Pope,
Fowler,	Kleberg,	Terrell.

Senator Davis offered the following amendment to section 18:

Strike out "for each place at which it may sit."

Adopted.

Senator Harris offered the following amendment to section 19:

Add to the section the following, "and special terms as may be provided by law"

Adopted by the following vote:

YEAS—12.

Davis,
Farrar,
Fleming,
Gibbs,

Harris,
Houston,
Jones,
Kleberg,

Martin,
Pfeuffer,
Shannon,
Terrell.

NAYS—9.

Buchanan,
Chesley,
Cooper,

Evans,
Fowler,
Getzendaner

Matlock,
Patton,
Traylor.

Senator Pope offered to amend section 19 as follows:

Amend by inserting the letter "l" before "e."

Lost.

Senator Shannon offered the following amendment:

Strike out "three thousand six hundred dollars," and insert "not less than two thousand five hundred dollars."

Senator Davis offered the following substitute for the pending amendment:

Strike out sixth line, page 5, and insert "thirty-five hundred dollars until otherwise prescribed by law, not to be increased or diminished during his term of office."

Accepted by Senator Shannon, and adopted as an amendment to the bill.

Senator Terrell offered to amend as follows, in section 24:

Strike out "of such county," in line 15, page 5, and "in the county," in line 16.

Adopted.

On motion of Senator Patton, Senator Pope was excused for to-day and to-morrow, on account of sickness in his family.

Senator Harris offered the following amendment:

Strike out section 26.

Adopted.

Senator Gibbs moved a call of the Senate.

Motion seconded.

Roll called.

A quorum being present,

On motion of Senator Matlock, the call was suspended.

Senator Davis offered the following amendment:

Strike out all after "habeas corpus," in line 20, page 5, and insert "mandamus, injunction, certiorari and all writs necessary to enforce their jurisdiction."

Adopted.

Senator Gibbs offered the following amendment to section 27:

Amend section 27 by inserting "may" for "shall," in line 32, and add at end of section 27, "where there is no district attorney, the duties shall be performed by a county attorney."

Senator Kleberg offered the following substitute for amendment of Senator Gibbs:

"The Legislature may also provide for the election of county attorneys where there are no resident district attorneys."

Lost.

Senator Davis offered the following substitute for Senator Gibbs' amendment to section 27:

Strike out all before "who," in line 1, page 6, and insert "the Legislature may authorize the election of district attorneys in districts in which there is not a resident criminal district attorney."

Lost.

Senator Cooper offered the following amendment to amendment of Senator Gibbs:

Amend by adding to amendment as follows: "whose duties, compensation and term of office shall be prescribed by law."

Accepted, and amendment as amended, adopted.

Senator Jones moved to postpone the consideration of section 27 until after the other sections of the bill had been considered.

Motion lost.

Senator Gooch offered the following amendment:

Strike out all after "by law," in line 5, page 6, and insert "a county attorney, for counties in which there is not a resident criminal district attorney, shall be elected by the qualified voters of each county, who shall hold his office for a term of two years, whose duties and compensation shall be prescribed by law."

Adopted.

Senator Davis offered the following amendment to section 32:

Strike out "thirteen" and insert "twelve."

Lost.

Senator Evans offered the following amendment:

Amend section 34 by striking out "five hundred dollars" and inserting "one thousand dollars."

Senator Getzendaner offered the following amendment:

Strike out all after "provided," in line 20, down to "but," in line 24, and insert the following: "The county shall also have exclusive original jurisdiction in civil cases where the matter in controversy shall exceed in value two hundred dollars and not exceed five hundred dollars, exclusive of interest, and concurrent jurisdiction with the district courts when the matter in controversy shall exceed five hundred and not exceed one thousand dollars, exclusive of interest."

Accepted, and substitute adopted.

Senator Terrell offered the following amendment to section 34:

Add after "courts," line 21, section 34, "except for official misconduct of municipal officers."

Adopted.

Senator Davis offered the following amendment to section 34:

Strike out the proviso.

Lost.

Senator Matlock offered the following amendment to section 33:

Strike out "four" in section 33, line 2, and insert "two."

Adopted.

Senator Traylor offered the following amendment to the amendment of Senator Matlock:

Amend section 33 as follows: Strike out all after the word "years," in line 12, down to and including the word "years," in line 14.

Lost, and Senator Matlock's amendment adopted.

Senator Terrell offered the following amendment to section 34:

Add after "courts," in line 20, page 7, "or which may be conferred by statutes as municipal or other courts."

Adopted.

Senator Kleberg offered the following amendment to section 34:

Strike out the word "heirs," in line 27, section 34, and insert "liens."

Adopted.

Senator Martin moved to amend by striking out the words "and recorder of the county" in line 31, page 8.

Senator Chesley offered the following substitute:

Amend section 39 by striking out all after the word "years," in line 30, to the word "whose," in line 32.

The President ruled that Senator Martin's amendment should have precedence, and the amendment was lost.

Senator Chesley's amendment was lost.
 Senator Chesley moved to reconsider the vote by which
 Senator Martin's amendment was lost.
 Motion to reconsider lost by the following vote:

YEAS—8.		
Chesley,	Martin,	Terrell,
Fowler,	Matlock,	Traylor.
Gibbs,	Randolph,	
NAYS—13.		
Cooper,	Getzendaner,	Kleberg,
Davis,	Harris,	Patton,
Evans,	Houston,	Pfeuffer,
Farrar,	Jones,	Shannon,
Fleming,		

Senator Cooper moved to amend by striking out the
 word "shall" and inserting "may."

Adopted.

Senator Davis moved to amend by striking out sec-
 tion 40.

Adopted.

Senator Gooch moved to reconsider the vote just cast.

Adopted, and

Vote reconsidered by the following vote:

YEAS—14.		
Buchanan,	Harris,	Patton,
Chesley,	Houston,	Pfeuffer,
Cooper,	Kleberg,	Terrell,
Farrar,	Martin,	Traylor.
Gooch,	Matlock,	
NAYS—7.		
Davis,	Getzendaner,	Randolph,
Evans,	Jones,	Shannon.
Fleming,		

Senator Davis' amendment was lost.

The President appointed, by recommendation of commit-
 tees and chairmen of committees, Norman G. Kittrell, G.
 A. F. Parker and Arthur J. Terrell as committee clerks, in
 accordance with the resolution adopted this morning.

Senator Shannon, chairman of Committee on Internal
 Improvements, by leave, submitted the following report:

COMMITTEE ROOM,
 AUSTIN, March 20, 1883.

Hon. A. W. Houston, President pro tem. of the Senate:

Your Committee on Internal Improvements, to whom was refer-
 red Senate bill No. 261, to be entitled "An act for the further regu-
 lation of railroad companies in the State of Texas, by creating a
 railroad commission and State engineer, and to prescribe the powers
 and duties of such," have considered the same, and I am instructed
 by a majority thereof to report it back to the Senate with the recom-
 mendation that it do not pass.

SHANNON, Chairman.

Bill read first time.

Senator Cooper, chairman of Committee on Enrolled
 Bills, submitted the following report:

COMMITTEE ROOM,
 AUSTIN, March 20, 1883.

Hon. Marion Martin, President of the Senate:

Your Committee on Enrolled Bills have carefully examined and
 compared substitute Senate bill No. 183, being "An act to amend 'an
 act to create a commission of arbitration and award, and to define
 the powers and duties thereof, and to make appropriation to pay
 the salaries of the judges thereof,' approved February 9, 1881," and
 find the same correctly enrolled, and have this day at 10:35 o'clock
 a. m. presented the same to the Governor for his approval.

COOPER, Chairman.

On motion of Senator Chesley, the Senate adjourned till
 10 a. m. to-morrow.

FIFTY-SEVENTH DAY.

SENATE CHAMBER, }
 AUSTIN, TEXAS, March 21, 1883. }

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.
 President pro tem. in the chair.

Roll called. Quorum present.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Meredith of Calvert, Texas.

On motion of Senator Kleberg, the reading of the jour-
 nal of yesterday was dispensed with and the same adopted.

Senator Patton, chairman of Committee on State Affairs,
 submitted the following reports:

COMMITTEE ROOM,
 AUSTIN, March 21, 1883.

Hon. A. W. Houston, President pro tem. of the Senate:

Your Committee on State Affairs, to whom was referred House
 bill No. 525, entitled "An act to remove the civil disabilities of Wil-
 lie E. Harper (a minor)," have carefully examined the same and
 a majority of said committee think that a general law might be made
 applicable to the case, and that therefore a special law should not be
 enacted, as provided in the State Constitution, in its limitation of the
 powers of the Legislature, article 3, section 56, and they instruct me
 to report the same back with the recommendation that it do not
 pass.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

PATTON, Chairman.

Bill read first time.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
 AUSTIN, March 21, 1883.

Hon. A. W. Houston, President pro tem. of the Senate:

Your Committee on State Affairs, to whom was referred the com-
 munication of W. C. Walsh, Commissioner of the General Land
 Office, to his Excellency, John Ireland, Governor of the State of
 Texas, representing that in order to secure an appeal for the State
 of Texas to the Supreme Court of the United States in the case
 known as the Mercer colony case, he had been compelled to give a
 personal bond in the sum of two thousand dollars, and asking an
 appropriation in that amount to reimburse him in the event of affirm-
 ance of the judgment of the court below, have carefully examined
 the same, and recommend that the appropriation be made, condi-
 tioned as above, and that the same be made an item of the appro-
 priation bill.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

PATTON, Chairman.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
 AUSTIN, March 21, 1883.

Hon. A. W. Houston, President pro tem. of the Senate:

Your Committee on State Affairs, to whom was referred Senate
 resolution No. 48, entitled "A resolution authorizing the Secretary
 of State to furnish Supreme Court reports to certain officials,"
 have carefully examined the same, and instruct me to report the
 same back with the recommendation that it do pass.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

PATTON, Chairman.

Resolution read first time.

COMMITTEE ROOM,
 AUSTIN, March 21, 1883.

Hon. A. W. Houston, President pro tem. of the Senate:

Your Committee on State Affairs, to whom was referred House
 bill No. 21, entitled "An act to provide for the surrender of char-
 ters of incorporated cities and towns in this State, and to authorize
 the counties wherein said cities and towns are situated to become
 their successors, and to confer such powers on the county com-
 missioners' court as may be necessary for the government and well
 being of said cities and towns," have carefully examined the same,
 and instruct me to report the same back with the recommendation
 that it do pass with amendments herewith presented.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

PATTON, Chairman.

Bill read first time.

Senator Davis, chairman of Committee on Counties and
 County Boundaries, submitted the following report:

COMMITTEE ROOM,
 AUSTIN, March 20, 1883.

Hon. A. W. Houston, President pro tem. of the Senate:

Your Committee on Counties and County Boundaries, to whom
 was referred House bill No. 510, entitled "An act to amend article
 897, Revised Civil Statutes, changing the calls and fixing the lines of
 Rockwall county," have carefully considered the same, and respect-
 fully recommend that it do not pass.

The object of the bill is to so change the boundaries of Rockwall
 county as to render it more certain that a strip of land thirteen
 miles and thirty-three varas east and west by one and one-fourth
 miles north and south, now claimed by both Rockwall and Kauf-
 man counties, is a part of Rockwall county.